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Types of International Friendship.

We are not surprised at the flurry which has arisen among the powers over the question which of them was "our friend" just before the outbreak of the war with Spain. If what goes on in the secret chambers of the foreign offices and the councils of diplomats were oftener brought to light, such commotions would be altogether too frequent to be enjoyable.

The revelations which have been made during this contention have given the plain people a clearer knowledge than they have before had of the selfish, petty and vacillating character of much that ordinarily passes for wise and profound statesmanship in these secret conclaves. We shall henceforth have to believe that diplomats and high functionaries are very like ordinary mortals, and that their doings cannot be allowed to pass as necessarily infallible because they happen to occupy the chief seats.

But this revelation has been less humiliating than the childish way in which the high and mighty "powers" through their officials have, if we may use the language of the street, "jawed" one another in their endeavor to let us know what did actually take place, or, rather, what they now wish had taken place, and to retain for themselves each the favor of

our government and people. The whole of the dispute has been conducted about on the plane of "No, I didn't!" "Yes, you did!" and there does not seem to be much room for choice among the participants.

The fact is, our country had, at the time spoken of, no friend in the sense of the term now meant by these curriers for our favor. Every one of the six great powers would have been glad to balk our government in its proposed intervention in Cuba, not from any love of Spain, but simply from the desire to outwit the United States and check her growing power. It is hypocrisy in them now to pretend anything else. There was neutrality finally on the part of all of them, but it was not "friendly." War and the spirit awakened by it never conduce to real friendship. If there was in the minds of Lord Pauncefoot, Baron von Holleben and the others a real desire to prevent a war for which they felt that there was no justification after the concessions offered by Spain, that partook of the nature of real friendship. The power that from this point of view was most opposed to us, if there was one, and not the power which stood by us, was most our friend in the true sense of the word. It is never an act of friendship to stand by one in a wrong.

We do not believe that England — the English government, we mean, not the people — would ever have claimed to have been "our friend," "our only friend," but for the political exigencies into which she has since fallen. Her record is too much against belief in the sincerity of so sudden a conversion. These political exigencies have made her feel the necessity of some one on whom to lean. In her eagerness to keep our government from interfering with her in the iniquitous undertaking which she has had on hand, she has entirely overdone the profession of friendship. That has unstopped the usually hermetically-sealed diplomatic jars and brought out the real facts in the case, and she has been shown to have been as bad as the rest, if not worse.

As to Russia, she seems to have come out of the squabble with more credit for "friendship" toward our government than any other of the powers. She has maintained, apparently, her traditional attitude toward us; but nobody who thinks believes that she had in this instance, or ever has had, any other attachment to us than that which is dictated by a rather low type of political expediency. Dislike of England, as was the case in the Civil War, was much